



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**MAIL STOP AFTER FINAL**

In re application of : **Confirmation No. 8989**  
Hisashi ICHIMURA et al. : Docket No. 2001\_0969  
Serial No. 09/902,256 : Group Art Unit 1751  
Filed July 11, 2001 : Examiner Preeti Kumar

ANIMAL FIBER SUPERIOR IN SHRINK  
PROOFING AND METHOD FOR  
PREPARATION THEREOF

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**RESPONSE TO FINAL REJECTION**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Final Rejection dated January 29, 2004, there is submitted herewith a copy of the Declaration discussed in the Response of October 20, 2003, which the Examiner states had previously not been received.

In the course of a recent telephone interview, the Examiner questioned how the Declaration distinguished over the prior art of the Final Rejection.

With regard to the Hojo primary reference, the Declaration sets forth numerous points of distinction, summarized in Table I on page 6 of the Declaration.

Firstly, note the absence of scales in Sample 3 compared to Samples 2-1 and 2-2 in accordance with the present invention.

Also note the differences in FT-IR data, as well as water repellency, susceptibility to the Allwörden reaction, felt shrinkage rate and pilling resistance.

In view of these numerous differences, it is clear that Hojo is completely unsuggestive of the present invention.

Further, it is clear the Thorsen reference does not overcome the above-discussed deficiencies of Hojo. There is no motivation to combine these references, and even if there were, there would be no reason to expect the excellent results as set forth in the attached Declaration.

For the foregoing reasons, allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or proposals for expediting prosecution, please contact undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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